

I write to ask the FCC to reconsider eliminating the Morse Code requirement. The Morse Code requirement should be retained for access to the HF Amateur bands, at least for the Extra Class license, for four important reasons. (1) Morse has an important role to play in emergency communications. It is the emergency communications medium of last resort. Trained operators can copy Morse messages under adverse propagation conditions, in situations where voice messages cannot be understood. (2) Morse requires much simpler equipment, thus enhancing its potential usefulness during emergency communications conditions. Other modes such as voice and digital modes require much more complex equipment. (3) Morse code enhances operator training and knowledge of radio electronics. Because Morse code uses simpler equipment, it encourages amateurs to experiment and build their own gear. It thus facilitates a trained pool of operators who can advance the state of the radio art in ways that other modes cannot and do not. (4) Morse code is an important skill which the highest class of amateur operators should have as part of their portfolio of radio knowledge.